

EVALUATION SUMMARY



Bureau Of Educational And Cultural Affairs Office Of Policy And Evaluation

Summer/Winter Institutes For The Study Of The U.S.: A Romanian Case Study

The purpose of the evaluation was to assess the impact of the Summer/Winter Institute experience on foreign scholar participants. Romania was used as the case study for the evaluation.

Key Findings

➤ **Quality of Teaching about the United States**

- 100 % of the alumni surveyed reported having a more comprehensive understanding of American values and society as a result of participation in an institute. Alumni revamped their curricula and presented more current and factual information on the United States to their students. Alumni implemented new teaching methodologies in their classrooms, throughout Romania, as a direct result of exposure to different techniques in the Summer/Winter Institutes.

➤ **Multiplier Effect**

- 70% of the alumni surveyed conducted seminars, training, or lectures outside their normal teaching activities based on their scholarly research while attending an institute
- 67 % remained in contact with institute class members from other countries. They also believe that this networking has assisted in their professional development.
- 60 % published materials, including textbooks, articles and literature, since their return home, based on research conducted while attending an institute

➤ **Personal and Professional Life**

- 100 % of the alumni surveyed considered the institute experience a life-changing event
- 50 % received promotions since their return home. Out of this group, 75 % attributed their promotions to participation in the Summer/Winter Institutes.

Project Information: Kais E Systems, Incorporated conducted the evaluation from September 1998 to September 1999. Data collection took place in the United States and in Romania. Eight of 13 alumni participated in two different focus group sessions. All eight also participated in one-on-one interviews. Ten out of 13 alumni completed a written survey.

Program Information: The Study of the United States Summer and Winter Institutes are six-week academic programs for multi-national groups of 18-30 university faculty and secondary school educators from abroad. The purpose of each institute is to strengthen curricula and improve the quality of teaching about the United States in academic institutions overseas. Institutes are held at university campuses throughout the United States and each focuses on a particular theme or discipline in American studies. Each program generally includes an intensive, four-week academic seminar and a two-week study tour designed to reinforce the academic content of the seminar. Since the mid-1980s, when the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs began administering the institutes, through 2000, more than 1300 individuals from more than 140 countries have participated in these programs.

Contact Information: For more information regarding this evaluation, or to request a copy of the 75-page report, please contact the Office of Policy and Evaluation at (202) 632-6325, by email at ECAevaluation@state.gov, or by mail at State Annex 5, 2200 C Street NW, Washington, DC 22301.